(a) whether it is a fact that India's online shopping is a paltry two percent of all Internet users;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the world's second most populated country is lagging behind in e-commerce;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a large scope for real market expansion of e-commerce in India and Asia Pacific; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to explore the market and to what extent population of this region would be regular Internet user?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Numerically, most popular form of e-Commerce takes place over the internet. However, as per the latest Boston Consultancy Group report for NASSCOM, there are about 5 million Internet users amounting to about 0.5 of population of India.

(b) For e-commerce over the Internet, there need to be a change in mindset of the consumer. As per the global experience, the successful nature and form of e-Commerce generally varies on the local conditions/practices in the respective countries. It may, therefore, be expected that with time e-Commerce will grow into its specific form with sustainable roots in India.

(c) As per the NASSCOM McKinsey study report 1999, India has a potential to earn revenues worth US$ 10 Billion by the year 2008 from e-business solutions.

(d) Government plays a proactive facilitator role in the promotion of e-Commerce in India. It is the numerous enterprises, large and small, public and private, who are expected to promote and sustain e-Commerce in India. To facilitate e-Commerce, Government of India had enacted Information Technology Act 2000 in October 2000 to provide the supporting legal framework. Other solutions such as e-cheque etc. are under development.

Expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana

*451. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to expand the 'Antyodaya' programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the issue prices for BPL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Obsolescent Defence Equipment

*452. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence equipment which have been declared as obsolescent by the DGQA/ANSP during the last three years; and

(b) the status and value of holding of the stocks of the spares associated with the equipment declared obsolescent during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Equipment is declared obsolescent in accordance with a set procedure. In general, the equipment will be classified obsolescent in accordance with a laid down 'discard policy' for that particular equipment. In the last three years, 72 defence equipments have been declared obsolescent.

(b) The data sought is not commensurate with the result intended to be achieved.

Disposal of sugar stocks

*453. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of heavy sugar stock approximately worth Rs. 1800 crores lying in the Karnataka godowns;

(b) if so, whether Government of Karnataka has requested for assistance in disposal of sugar stocks; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to facilitate clearance of the sugar stocks?

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